

Foreign Missions Conference of N.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.  
Far Eastern Joint Office  
KOREA COMMITTEE

Korea - 2

March 6, 1947

A LETTER FROM DR. FLETCHER REPORTING  
IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE KOREAN CHURCH

Headquarters USAMGIK  
Chaplain's Office  
A.F.O. #235 - 2  
c/o P.M. San Francisco

Dear Dr. Hooper:

February 8, 1947

THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL of Korea has been reorganized with both Churches and Missions operating. The present constitution closely resembles the former one. Participation of the Holiness Church for the first time is an encouraging feature.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL DELEGATES: One of the first actions of the Korea N.C.C. was the selection of its chairman the Rev. Kwan Sik Kim as chief delegate to the enlarged I.M.C. meeting to be held at Whitby, Canada, July 5 to 19, 1947. Rev. Kim spent four years in seminary work at Knox College, Toronto and Princeton, New Jersey. He was present as a delegate at the World Sunday School Conference in Los Angeles in 1928 and at the I.M.C. meeting at Berlin, Germany in 1932. He expects to spend some weeks in Canada and cross over again to the United States after the conference. More recently a second delegate from Korea, Rev. Tai Hei Kang, has been chosen. Rev. Kang took seminary work at Drew and is now serving as President of the Korea Methodist General Conference.

COMMISSION OF THE CHURCHES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: As you know this new organization was sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council. The representative for Korea, selected by the National Christian Council, is Dr. L. George Paik, President of the Chosen Christian University. Dr. Paik is well known to many in America. He has an A.B. from Park College, an M.A. and Th.B. from Princeton and a Ph.D. from Yale. An international meeting of the C.C.I.A. has not been called but Dr. Paik has expressed a desire to visit the United States later this year in the interests of the C.C. University.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH: Representatives of the Korea Church Youth Movements met yesterday and selected two delegates to the Oslo Conference, July 22 to August 1, 1947. One is a young Presbyterian Pastor - the other a member of the Holiness Church. It is expected that six delegates from Korea will go to Norway. The other four representing the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A. and the World Student Christian Federation. The C.C.U. and Ewha University will each select one of the W.C.C.F. representatives.

WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL: Within the past month the Korea Sunday School Association was reorganized. Here again the pre-war constitution was adopted with slight changes. Within the next week a delegate will be chosen to the W.S.S.A. Council to be held in England during August, 1947. This delegate will probably return by way of the United States and expect to spend a short time in the study of Religious Education and Sunday School methods. It is probable that two or

three Korea Christians may wish to attend one or more of these International Conferences, at their own expense, if they can receive invitations or permission to do so.

TRAVEL EXPENSES OF DELEGATES: Part of the funds will be raised here in Korea by the Churches and by individuals. However, as Korea has not an established international rate of exchange the yen cannot be used outside her borders. There is, therefore, the problem of converting yen into dollars. After conference with Korean Christian leaders I made the suggestion to Dr. Becker that an arbitrary rate of exchange, 100 to 1, be agreed upon and one dollar be made available to the delegates in the United States for every 100 yen deposited by the Christians in the Bank of Chosen to the credit of the Mission Boards. The only additional financial problem would be the purchase of S.S. tickets from Korea to the U.S.A. as the S.S. Company demands payment in dollars. The latter might be sent out by returning missionaries in the form of American Express Travellers' checks or the S.S. Company might be persuaded to accept payment in the U.S.A.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SOCIETY: You will be greatly interested to know that, with the former constitution as a guide, a temporary organization of the C.L.S. was formed yesterday. A brief resume of its history, during and since the war, follows: On May 22, 1942, both the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Christian Literature Society of Korea were declared to be "enemy alien property" and a Japanese, former policeman, put in charge. At the same time the sale of Christian literature, particularly Bibles and Hymnals, was forbidden. For this reason, after liberation, left-over books became "best sellers" and within nine months 74,796 copies and 28,113 sheet tracts were sold. Receipts from the sale of this literature and from the rent of rooms in the building have enabled the custodian to make the necessary repairs on the building and to pay other expenses without creating a deficit. Although happy to report on the reorganization of the C.L.S. of Korea as you know economic conditions, scarcity of paper, etc., make it almost impossible for the Society to attempt its regular work of producing and printing Christian literature. However, it is hoped that a start may be made in a small way and that we will be fully prepared to function efficiently should conditions become more favorable.

In addition to Church and Interdenominational Meetings as mentioned above, Government Relationships, Property and Finance, Teaching and Preaching in the city there are many personal contacts and conferences which the Secular missionaries are privileged to make. Mr. Coon spent some days with a Korean pastor conducting a country class where one hundred men were in attendance. The first devotional meeting started at six AM and the last finished at two PM, with Bible study periods each day before and after noon. Dr. Fletcher made a flying trip to attend a meeting of Korean doctors in one of the southern Provinces.

In each of the three country Stations our missionaries are teaching in Bible Institutes now conducted by the Presbyteries. They have also helped in Bible Classes where a hundred and more were enrolled and as many as a thousand attended the evening preaching service. In Chungju, Dr. Lampe is serving as Protestant Chaplain for the tactical forces and the Sunday attendance has increased from twenty to fifty. Mr. Voelkel has preached to prisoners in the jail and as a result of the war he reports, after a visit to the country, that approximately fifty churches in the Indong district have disappeared. The orders given by Japanese

military authorities often resulted in the sale, removal or destruction of a Church building. Mr. Blair reports a special meeting held in Taicu for American soldiers when sixty came forward to declare their intention to live a reformed life. Mr. Adams reports a most cordial reception from the members of Kyung Dong Presbytery. From this district has come through him an earnest request that at least one missionary family be located in their Presbytery.

Cordially yours,

A. C. Fletcher

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Rowland H. Cross  
Secretary  
Korea Committee

Foreign Missions Conference of N.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.  
Far Eastern Joint Office  
KOREA COMMITTEE

Korea-3

March 7, 1947

Letter #4 from Rev. Roscoe C. Coen

Civ. Pres. Mission  
HQ USAMMGIK APO 235-2  
Chaplains' Office c/o HM  
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Cross:

Herewith the minutes of the recent meeting of the Group of Ten, which as you will see is from now on to be called 'The Foreign Missions Conference Group', in its enlarged size and functions.

We received the copies you sent of the Resolutions taken at the Buck Hill Falls meeting, Jan. 6, 1947, and the copy of your letter to the Boards regarding a meeting of the Korea Committee on Feb. 12th. We are glad to receive this information, and shall await further word concerning your plans for Korea. If you in America are prepared "to plan a program of advance in Korea" at the present time, you are far ahead of us who are here in the field.

A few notes on the enclosed minutes may be in order: You will see that we are, at last, getting the C.L.S. re-organized and soon will have it functioning again insofar as conditions will permit.

You will see, also, that the S.S. lessons are here and being received and distributed as widely and quickly as possible.

You will also note our attempt to re-organize and re-vitalize the original committee of ten. Our conditions here are quite different from those that prevail in Japan, but there is need for this inter denominational group to function to some extent. Make your wishes known in very definite statements, and we shall do our best to serve both your needs and our own in matters of common concern to us all. While regular meetings of the F.M.C. Group are scheduled only once in three months, in our next meeting not until May, still if urgent matters required it, we could have a called meeting, I suppose.

Sincerely yours,

Roscoe C. Coen, Sec. F.M.C. Group

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MINUTES OF THE GROUP OF TEN MISSIONARIES  
Meeting of Feb. 5, 1947, Jensen House  
Seoul, Korea

The Group of Ten Missionaries, enlarged by the attendance of many other missionaries since arrived on the field, met on Feb. 5, 1947, in the Jensen House, Seoul, Korea, at 1:50 p.m.

Those present were: Dr. A. G. Fletcher, Miss C. Howard, Mrs. A. B. Chaffin, Rev. J. T. Chase, Rev. L. C. Brannon, Rev. H. Voelkel, Miss Ada Hall, Rev. Chas. Sauer, Rev. E. Adams, Dr. C. C. Amendt, Rev. H. W. Lane, Dr. V. Scott, Dr. J. C. Crane, Dr. W. A. Linton, Dr. H. A. Rhodes, Dr. W. N. Blair, Dr. H. Lampe, Dr. B. Billings, Rev. R. C. Coen, Dr. E. J. O. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. D. Lutz, and Rev. L. P. Anderson.

After singing a hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", the meeting was opened with a Scripture reading by Dr. I. Scott and prayers by Miss Howard and Rev. Mr. Chase.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read. Correspondence was read by the Secretary but no actions arose from it.

The agenda as presented by the Secretary was accepted. Reports of various Committees were heard.

Dr. Fraser reporting for the Committee on the C.L.S. said a re-organization meeting was arranged for Feb. 6, 1947 to re-organize the Society as before the war. The mission and Church representatives will meet upon that date, make up the list of life and other members, from that list nominate 24 persons, ask for a ballot to elect 12 of them, and after all these are elected the Board can be fully and officially organized and function on behalf of the Society.

Coen and Fraser reported that the Sunday School lessons were at Incheon in the process of being brought to Seoul for immediate sale and distribution to the churches.

Mr. Adams gave a brief report on a plan to get 10,000 Presbyterian hymnals from Japan for sale to and use in the churches of South Korea--nothing definite on the matter yet, however.

Dr. Rhodes reported that arrangements had been completed for the sending of magazines in English from America for Korean readers in South Korea, but that the plan for sending sets of English books was not yet completed.

Dr. Fletcher reported that application had been made to the authorities for permission for Dr. John Reischer's visit to Korea but that no definite plans were being made as yet.

Dr. Fraser reported on the visit of a special committee to the Office of the Alien Property Custodian in Seoul, but said that a further meeting was in prospect early in Feb. when a high Official from Japan comes to Korea.

Dr. Amendt reported for the committee on the choice of a meeting place for the Seoul Foreign Church to the effect that the former Japanese Meth. Church building could be used if desired for that purpose. The Report was received as a report of progress and the committee asked to proceed with further plans for the re-organization and functioning of the Seoul Foreign Church.

Dr. Fraser reported for the Committee of the future organization and functions of the Group of Ten.

Part one of the Report was adopted as follows:

"Your Committee recommends that, insofar as possible, the original Group of ten Missionaries to Korea be continued for the time being, with additions as stated below, partly to fill vacancies, and partly to cover functions of work or mission groups not represented in the original group.

Those of Original Group, with their respective functions, now are:

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rev. B. W. Billings, Methodist       | Relief and Social Service         |
| Rev. Roscoe C. Coen, No. Presby.     | Evang., Church, and Property      |
| Rev. D. J. Cumming, So. Presby.      | Educational                       |
| Rev. A. G. Fletcher, No. Presby.     | Relief, Soc. Serv., Medical       |
| Rev. E. J. O. Fraser, Unit. Canadian | Evang., Church, Literature        |
| Rev. A. K. Jensen, Meth.             | Evang., Church, Planning supplies |
| Rev. W. A. Linton, So. Presby.       | Evang. and Educational            |
| Rev. R. S. Watts, S.D.A.             | Evang., Church, Literature        |

New Names added:

Rev. J. T. Chase, Ch. of Christ	Evang. and Church
Rev. H. W. Lane, Aust. Presby.	Evang. and Church
Mrs. A. B. Chaffin, Meth.	Women's work

Part two: The new name adopted for the Group is 'The Foreign Missions Conference Group (F.M.C. Group)'

Part three: That our future meetings be as follows:

That all the missionaries resident in Seoul and any missionaries who may by chance be in Seoul at the time, meet once a month for fellowship, and that every third month the F.M.C. Group meet on the morning of the Wed. following the first Sunday of the month, and the Missionary group for all Korea so far as possible meet in the afternoon of the same day for business and fellowship."

The F.M.C. Group was asked to see what could be done to facilitate joint surveys in Korea in institutions and matters that were of common interest and concern to all or most denominations working in Korea.

The F.M.C. Group was asked to try to arrange joint meetings for conferences with representatives and delegates that may come to Korea from time to time.

The F.M.C. Group was asked to arrange for the next monthly meeting of the Seoul Missionaries on Mar. 5th, at 1:30 and at a place to be decided by the F.M.C. Group officers. At this meeting the Seoul Group will organize separately from the F.M.C. Group.

The next meeting of the F.M.C. Group will be May 7, at 9:00 a.m. at a place to be designated by the Chairman and Secretary of the Group.

The meeting adjourned with prayers by Rev. H. W. Lane and Dr. J. C. Crane, at 4:15 PM.

Signed,

Roscoe C. Coon, Secretary